

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A device for insertion into a first phalange and a second adjacent phalange so as to join fuse the first phalange to the second phalange, comprising:

a substantially elongated member comprised of a resorbable material;

wherein the member has a first end portion, a middle portion, and second end portion spaced and opposed from the first end portion;

wherein the middle portion has a curvature such that ~~an~~ a fixed angle is formed between the first end portion and the second end portion.

B, C 2. (Previously Amended) The ^{device}~~invention~~ according to Claim 1, wherein the first end portion is operable to be implanted into a phalange selected from a group consisting of proximal phalanges, intermediate phalanges, distal phalanges, and combinations thereof.

C 3. (Previously Amended) The ^{device}~~invention~~ according to Claim 1, wherein the second end portion is operable to be implanted into a phalange selected from a group consisting of proximal phalanges, intermediate phalanges, distal phalanges, and combinations thereof.

1/

C 4. ^{device} (Original) The ~~invention~~ according to claim 1, wherein the first end portion has a surface portion for facilitating insertion into a proximal phalange.

C 5. ^{device} (Original) The ~~invention~~ according to claim 4, wherein the surface portion comprises a threaded surface.

C 6. ^{device} (Original) The ~~invention~~ according to claim 1, wherein the first end portion has a surface portion for facilitating retention within a proximal phalange.

C 7. ^{device} (Original) The ~~invention~~ according to claim 6, wherein the surface portion comprises a threaded surface.

B, C 8. ^{device} (Original) The ~~invention~~ according to claim 1, wherein the second end portion has a surface portion for facilitating insertion into an intermediate phalange.

C 9. ^{device} (Original) The ~~invention~~ according to claim 8, wherein the surface portion comprises a structure selected from the group consisting of shoulders, ribs, helixes, and combinations thereof.

C 10. ^{device} (Original) The ~~invention~~ according to claim 1, wherein the second end portion has a surface portion for facilitating retention within an intermediate phalange.

C 11. (Original) The ^{device}~~invention~~ according to claim 10, wherein the surface portion comprises a structure selected from the group consisting of shoulders, ribs, helixes, and combinations thereof.

C 12. (Original) The ^{device}~~invention~~ according to claim 1, wherein the resorbable material is selected from the group consisting of polylactic acid, polyglycolic acid, and combinations thereof.

C 13. (Original) The ^{device}~~invention~~ according to claim 1, wherein the member is substantially cylindrical.

C B 14. (Original) The ^{device}~~invention~~ according to claim 1, wherein the angle is substantially anatomically correct.

15. (Currently Amended) A device for insertion into a first phalange and a second adjacent phalange so as to join fuse the first phalange to the second phalange, comprising:

a substantially elongated member comprised of a resorbable material;

wherein the member has a first end portion, a middle portion, and second end portion spaced and opposed from the first end portion;

wherein the first end portion and the second end portion have a surface portion for facilitating retention within the first phalange and the second phalange;

wherein the middle portion has a curvature such that ~~an~~ a fixed angle is formed between the first end portion and the second end portion;

wherein the angle is substantially anatomically correct.

C 16. (Previously Amended) The ^{device}~~invention~~ according to Claim 15, wherein the first end portion is operable to be implanted into a phalange selected from a group consisting of proximal phalanges, intermediate phalanges, distal phalanges, and combinations thereof.

C 17. (Previously Amended) The ^{device}~~invention~~ according to Claim 15, wherein the second end portion is operable to be implanted into a phalange selected from a group consisting of proximal phalanges, intermediate phalanges, distal phalanges, and combinations thereof.

C 18. (Original) The ^{device}~~invention~~ according to claim 15, wherein the first end portion has a surface portion for facilitating insertion into a proximal phalange.

C 19. (Original) The ^{device}~~invention~~ according to claim 18, wherein the surface portion comprises a threaded surface.

C 20. (Original) The ^{device}~~invention~~ according to claim 15, wherein the surface portion comprises a threaded surface.

C 21. (Original) The ^{device}~~invention~~ according to claim 15, wherein the second end portion has a surface portion for facilitating insertion into an intermediate phalange.

C 22. (Original) The ^{device}~~invention~~ according to claim 21, wherein the surface portion comprises a structure selected from the group consisting of shoulders, ribs, helixes, and combinations thereof.

C 23. (Original) The ^{device}~~invention~~ according to claim 15, wherein the surface portion comprises a structure selected from the group consisting of shoulders, ribs, helixes, and combinations thereof.

B, C 24. (Original) The ^{device}~~invention~~ according to claim 15, wherein the resorbable material is selected from the group consisting of polylactic acid, polyglycolic acid, and combinations thereof.

C 25. (Original) The ^{device}~~invention~~ according to claim 15, wherein the member is substantially cylindrical.

26. (Original) A method for ~~joining~~ fusing a first phalange to a second adjacent phalange, comprising:

providing a bore in a distal end of the first phalange;

providing a bore in a proximal end of the second phalange;

providing a device comprising a substantially elongated member comprised of a resorbable material;

wherein the member has a first end portion, a middle portion, and second end portion spaced and opposed from the first end portion;

wherein the middle portion has a curvature such that the first end portion and the second end portion ~~are angled~~ have a fixed angle towards one another; and

inserting the device into the bore in the distal end of the first phalange and into the bore in the proximal end of the second phalange.

C 27. (Previously Added) ^{method} The ~~invention~~ according to Claim 26, wherein providing a bore includes providing a bore in the first phalange selected from a group consisting of proximal phalanges, intermediate phalanges, distal phalanges, and combinations thereof.

B C 28. (Previously Added) ^{method} The ~~invention~~ according to Claim 26, wherein providing a bore includes providing a bore in the second phalange selected from a group consisting of proximal phalanges, intermediate phalanges, distal phalanges, and combinations thereof.

29. (Previously Added) A device for insertion into a first phalange and a second adjacent phalange so as to fuse the first phalange to the second phalange, comprising:

substantially rigid elongated member comprised of a resorbable material;

wherein the member has a first end portion, a middle portion, and second end portion spaced and opposed from the first end portion;

wherein the middle portion has a fixed curvature such that a fixed angle is formed between the first end portion and the second end portion.

30. (Previously Added) A device for insertion into a first phalange and a second adjacent phalange so as to fuse the first phalange to the second phalange, comprising:

substantially rigid elongated member comprised of a resorbable material;

wherein the member has a first end portion, a middle portion, and second end portion spaced and opposed from the first end portion;

wherein the first end portion and the second end portion have a surface portion for facilitating retention within the first phalange and the second phalange;

wherein the middle portion has a fixed curvature such that a fixed angle is formed between the first end portion and the second end portion;

wherein the fixed angle is substantially anatomically correct.
